

Cross-Cutting Fundamental Strategy

Superfund Remedial Branch Input

Expanding the Conversation on Environmentalism

#3: Improve Communication

San Jacinto Disposal Pits, Harris County, TX: EPA Region 6 is developing a color coding system to better communicate information to the public regarding the environmental sampling results obtained during the Time Critical Removal Action and sampling conducted for the residential properties located in the adjacent to the San Jacinto Disposal Pits Superfund study area. The color coding will communicate to the public the levels of contaminants found at the site in a manner that will show what risk those levels of exposure present to human health and the environment. To better communicate information to the public, EPA Region 6 has also established a web site where all the sampling results are made available to the public.

Molycorp, Inc., Questa, NM: Information on the site, including the administrative record and Record of Decision, has been made available to the public on the EPA Region 6 web site.

Advancing Science, Research, and Technological Innovation

#2: Support and promote technologies and methods that scrutinize environmental and human health data

The Superfund Division is acquiring a portable Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) unit called HAPSITE. This unit is about the size of a backpack, yet has analytical capabilities similar to a full size, RV-based, TAGA unit. Once the Region acquires the HAPSITE unit, training will be provided to Remedial Project Managers, Site Assessment Managers, and On-Scene Coordinators. With the HAPSITE unit, Superfund will save thousands of dollars each year on contractor sampling and analytical laboratory costs. Superfund will also be able to provide communities with environmental data more quickly than currently possible with traditional laboratory analyses.

#3: Communicate the design, definition, conduct, transfer, and implementation of research...

The Superfund Division continues to hold bi-annual Regional Decision Team meetings with our State and Tribal counterparts in Dallas. In these meetings, overall program priorities and budgets are discussed. Overarching program issues between the Regional office and the States are identified and plans are developed to address the issues identified. The program managers also hold quarterly meetings with each our State counterparts to review progress on program

priorities and site work and update budgets. IN FY2011, these coordination meetings were expanded to include videoconferences with each of the States as the Regional program began developing its Strategic Plan for 2012 and beyond on preparation for workplanning sessions with EPA Headquarters.

Strengthening EPA's Workforce and Capabilities

#7: Increase the use of Green conferencing and Green Meeting Principles

The Superfund Division increased the use of videoconferencing and webinars to communicate with the States on both programmatic and site specific issues, significantly reducing travel needs for what would often result in relatively short face-to-face short meetings. The development of the Division's FY2012 Strategic Plan for EPA Headquarters was developed, in part, through videoconferences with each of the five State environmental agencies. The Division is also increasing the use of webinars as a way to conduct meetings and make presentations for multiple stakeholders in many locations.

Molycorp, Inc, Questa, NM: The Superfund Division worked with the New Mexico Environment Department and Chevron Mining, Inc., to build a 1-Megawatt solar power farm on a portion of the tailing facility. Electricity generated from the solar panels will be provide power to much of the village of Questa and to operate the future ground water remedy for the tailing facility part of the Superfund site.

Tar Creek, OK: One of the subcontractors for the remedial work at this site is bussing workers and truck drivers from a central parking location to different areas of the site. This practice is reducing the carbon footprint of the remedy by eliminating the use of individual workers' vehicles throughout the site.

Working for Environmental Justice and Children's Health

#10: Program Initiatives –

Old Esco, Greenville, TX: EPA Region 6 used removal contractors to quickly start the cleanup activities at this site. Using the removal contractors expedited the start of a simple excavation and removal cleanup without having to use remedial contractors to do this work. This eliminated the need to conduct time consuming workplans for remedial design and remedial action. Using removal contractor resulted in completing site activities in approximately five (5) months that would have taken 12 to 18 months to complete. Using the removal contractors will result in achieving Construction Completion in FY2011 for the Old Esco site, one year ahead of schedule.

Gulfco, Freeport, TX: EPA Region 6 worked closely with the PRPs to conduct an early action at the site by conducting a removal action that addressed risk to human health. Region 6 also worked with the PRPs to conduct a focused feasibility study (FS) that shorten the schedule for completing the FS by approximately six (6) months. By working closely with the PRPs, conducting early cleanup activities, and the focused FS, Region 6 will be able to achieved Construction Completion for the Gulfco site in FY2011, one year ahead of schedule.

Hudson Refinery, Cushing, OK: Implementation of the remedy at Hudson Refinery was accelerated by two factors. First, the remedial design and construction were conducted in parallel, instead of sequentially. This was possible because the remedy involved nothing more than digging and hauling contaminated material and backfilling the excavated areas. Combining these activities reduced the time to complete the cleanup by 12 months. Second, the Remedial Project Manager provided daily, direct oversight of the cleanup activities. This continued EPA presence resulted in the ability to make real time field decisions, shortening the cleanup time by as much as 2-3 months and eliminating costly “down time” of earth-moving equipment and haul trucks.